

Smith
DCI/IC 75-1508
24 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Wilson

SUBJECT: Possible Request by State/INR for DCI
Assistance in Automation

1. Mr. Berry, State/INR representative to USIB/IHC, has reported to me today that Mr. Hyland may mention, either privately to the DCI or in the general IRAC meeting this week, his hope that the DCI may assist INR in moving toward an automated analyst environment.

2. Mr. Hyland may ask DCI help in two separate matters:

a. Reclama of OMB's removal of a \$600,000 item in the State FY-76 budget proposal that would have procured Collins automated relay station equipment (similar to CIA/OC) to speed up the distribution to State/INR analysts of incoming communications (ca \$400,000), and funds for building a 20' x 30' shielded room to house computer terminals (ca \$200,000).

b. DCI approval for State/INR participation as a test unit in Project SAFE, comparable to the several CIA test branches that have been working with SAFE for several months.

3. In my opinion, DCI support is warranted in both cases, although procedurally it may be too late to accomplish (a).


4. This is a very timely moment to raise the issue of (b), because a basic policy decision is to be taken within the next 30-60 days as to the extent, if at all, that this system is to be "CIA internal only" or to extend in some particulars to agencies outside CIA. In the immediate future, system design parameters must be settled on to guide contractors.


5. The DCI stated initially that he wished to have SAFE "introduced" to the community via the IHC, and we have done so. It is now necessary to decide whether this means that agencies other than CIA may participate in the SAFE system. If so, they should make inputs to its planning and their analysts should participate in user tests to guide system design. The work of Current Intelligence analysts in INR, which is the locus of State's most immediate need, appears to have similarities to that done by some CIA analysts.

6. Other agencies do not have problems of automation that correspond exactly with those of CIA. But there are areas of overlap and mutual interest. I assume that the DCI intends that a system as expensive as SAFE should not be so self-contained that its development is not to take account of areas where it may serve as the vehicle to address some problems common to several agencies, and thus avoid the costs of developing totally separate systems for each of them.

7. What I believe is called for at this time is a statement by the DCI of a principle -- either he wishes SAFE system design to try to be responsive to some community needs, or system design is to address only the CIA problem. A decision in favor of the first option will make the design and testing phases of SAFE more complex, but such a decision seems the only sensible one if the DCI is to lead the community to plan and develop automated capabilities that are compatible and cost/effective.

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Chairman, IHC

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